

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of constructing a billing statement comprising:
  - a. establishing a unique identifier for each customer;
  - b. creating a first digital document representing an advertisement with a unique advertisement identifier and associating the customer identifier with said advertisement identifier;
  - c. creating a second digital document representing an invoice for advertisements;
  - d. finding the advertisement documents in a first advertisement data base and copying the advertisements to an invoice database; and
  - e. storing the first and second documents in a common file.
2. The method of claim 1 including the further step of copying the digital documents to a removable storage medium.
3. The method of claim 1 including the further step of listing each advertisement document as a line item on the invoice document.
4. The method of claim 1 including the further step of displaying the first and second documents in human readable format.

5. The method of claim 1 father including the step of  
creating a third digital document representing a publication page  
containing the advertisement and associating the publication page with said  
advertisement identifier.

6. The method of claim 5 father including the step of  
finding the published page of the advertisement in a second publication  
data base and copying the published page to the invoice database.

7. The method of claim 6 father including the step of  
storing the published page document in a common file associated with  
the invoice document.

8. A method of constructing a billing statement comprising:

- a. establishing a unique identifier for each customer;
- b. creating a first digital document representing an advertisement  
with a unique advertisement identifier and associating the customer identifier with  
said advertisement identifier;
- c. creating a second digital document representing a publication  
page with the advertisement and associating the publication page with said  
advertisement identifier;

d. creating a third digital document representing an invoice for advertisements including specifying an identifier range for invoiced advertisements;

e. finding the advertisement documents by searching the unique customer identifier in a first data base and copying the advertisements to an invoice database and listing each found advertisement as a line item on the invoice;

f. finding the published page of the advertisement and copying the published page to the invoice database; *and*

g. storing the first and second documents in a common file associated with the invoice document.

9. The method of claim 8 further including finding the published page by searching the unique advertisement identifier.

10. The method of claim 8 further including finding the published page by searching the unique customer identifier.

11. The method of claim 8 including the further step of copying the digital documents to a removable storage medium.

12. The method of claim 8 including the further step of listing each advertisement document as a line item on the invoice document.

13. The method of claim 8 including the further step of displaying the first, second, and third documents in human readable format.

14. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of creating a third digital document representing an invoice for advertisements includes specifying an identifier range for the advertisement documents.

15. A method of constructing a billing statement for published advertisements comprising:

- a. establishing a unique customer identifier for a customer to be billed;
- b. creating a first digital document representing a billing invoice and associating the billing invoice with the unique customer identifier and storing the billing invoice in an invoice file;
- c. creating a second digital document representing an advertisement with a unique advertisement identifier and associating the customer identifier with the advertisement identifier and storing the advertisement document in an advertisement database;

d. creating a third digital document representing a publication page, with the advertisement thereon, and having a unique page identifier; and associating the publication page identifier with said advertisement identifier and storing the publication page document in a publication page database;

e. searching for advertisement documents in the advertisement data base according to the customer identifier, identifying advertisement documents according to the customer identifier, and copying the identified advertisement documents to the invoice file;

f. searching for publication pages associated with the advertisement documents in the publication page database and copying the associated publication pages to the invoice file; and

g. cross referencing the first, second, and third documents in the invoice file .

16. The method of claim 15 including the further step of copying the digital documents to a removable storage medium.

17. The method of claim 15 including the further step of listing each advertisement document as a line item on the invoice document.

18. The method of claim 17 including the further step of displaying the first, second, and third documents in human readable format.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of  
creating a third digital document representing an invoice for  
advertisements includes specifying an identifier range for the advertisement  
documents.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the step of  
specifying an identifier range further includes specifying a date range  
on which the advertisements were published.